



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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CAREX SCOPARIA **POINTED BROOM SEDGE**

Pointed Broom Sedge is a grass-like perennial that grows in dense clumps without rhizomes and has stems 40-100 cm high. The lowermost leaves are reduced to scales. The stem leaf blades are 1-3 mm wide, and flat and clustered just above the scales on the lower stem. Flowers are clustered in 3-8 egg-shaped, stalkless spikes that are 8-14 mm long and in close proximity to each other at the top of the stem. Male flowers occur at the base of each spike. The pale green to light brown egg-shaped perigynia are 4-6 mm long and taper gradually to a poorly-defined beak. The firm scales are light brown with a green center and are smaller than the perigynia that they subtend. Each perigynium has 2 stigmas and an achene that is lens-shaped. Fruiting in August.

CAREX SCOPARIA differs from the common *C. BEBBII* in that the latter has perigynia which are less than 4 mm long. A hand lens or microscope and a technical key are needed for positive identification.